

B2 cont. Sub C2/7
7. (Once Amended) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film comprises carbon as a main component formed by sputtering.

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10. (Once Amended) A master information carrier according to claim 16, wherein the cross section of said ferromagnetic film in a bit length direction of the information signals has a substantially trapezoidal shape with an upper side at the surface that is longer than a lower side on the substrate.

11. (Once Amended) A master information carrier according to claim 16, wherein a protective film is formed on the surface of said substrate and said ferromagnetic film filled in the recessed portions.

Sub C3
12. (Once Amended) A master information carrier according to claim 11, wherein said protective film comprises carbon as a main component formed by sputtering.

Please add new claims 15-21.

Sub C4
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15. (New) A master information carrier used for recording information signals on a magnetic recording medium, comprising a non-magnetic substrate; a pattern of a ferromagnetic film which is disposed on the surface of the non-magnetic substrate, the pattern corresponding to an arrangement of the information signals; and a non-magnetic solid material filled in portions between respective neighboring ferromagnetic film areas composing the pattern,

wherein the ferromagnetic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, and an alloy comprising Co or Fe as a main component, and the non-magnetic solid material is selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Cu, Ag and an alloy comprising Cu or Ag as a main component.

16. (New) A master information carrier used for recording information signals on a magnetic recording medium, comprising a non-magnetic substrate having an embossed surface that forms a pattern of recessed portions corresponding to an arrangement of the information signals; and a ferromagnetic film filled in the recessed portions of the pattern,

wherein the ferromagnetic film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of Co, Fe, and an alloy comprising Co or Fe as a main component and the non-

magnetic substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Cu, Ag and an alloy comprising Cu or Ag as a main component.

17. (New) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film has a thickness of 20 nm or less.

18. (New) A master information carrier according to claim 6, wherein the protective film is electrically conductive.

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CONT.
19. (New) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising: bringing the master information carrier according to claim 15 into contact with the magnetic recording medium; and applying a magnetic field, whereby the magnetic recording medium is recorded a magnetized pattern corresponding the pattern formed on the master information carrier.

20. (New) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising: bringing the master information carrier according to claim 16 into contact with the magnetic recording medium; and applying a magnetic field, whereby the magnetic recording medium is recorded a magnetized pattern corresponding the pattern formed on the master information carrier.

21. (New) A master information carrier according to claim 11, wherein the protective film has a thickness of 20 nm or less.
